

## THE BYSTANDER



Lady Bugs and Germs.  
Back to the Old Question.

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, as for instance, the busy Portuguese of Punchbowl getting up early to pick black bugs off their grape vines, when all the bugs were after was breakfast on the grubs that made the grapes sour. All the Portuguese knew that something was spoiling the fruit and they fell in slaughter on the first live thing in sight, which happened to be their horticultural friends.

The same state of affairs crops up in connection with the cholera epidemic, now happily a thing of the past. With the little knowledge that there was pills of some kind afloat, the Hawaiians ducked for cover as soon as a board of health uniform appeared. Like the Portuguese and the lady bugs, the Hawaiians failed to recognize their best friends, and, so soon as death began to select their victims, the Hawaiians turned against the first thing in sight, the health authorities.

All that the board of health had to put up with and overcome during the past month will probably never be known. In the quarantine hospital, with nurses and physicians braving a horrible death for their sakes, the inmates rebelled frequently. They hid the earliest symptoms of the disease, the telling of which would have enabled the doctors on hand to save more than one of the lives that snuffed out. When the disease had fastened its grip upon them, and there was no further possibility of concealment, the writhing victims fought against taking the medicines prepared.

The cholera is over; may it never return. But, if it should, let us hope by that time that the Hawaiian leaders will have forgotten how to trade upon cultivated ignorance and will unite in assisting the authorities to handle the situation.

The Punchbowl ladybugs will also be safe from the death sentence as soon as Ed. Towse bill to have information spread abroad is passed and acted upon.

The Bystander is more or less of a come-back, without being eligible for the club of that name, even if it were not filled. I come back to the same old point frequently, and never oftener than to the point I have tried to make several times in regard to the wisdom of sometimes acknowledging a mistake.

I think it is up to the people of Honolulu to arise now, swallow their crow, acknowledge that they did not know what they talking about, recant on unanimous resolutions and paid-in-advance cables and ask the treasury department at Washington to let us have our federal building on the Irwin site.

Let us forget whatever bitterness there may have been in this question in the past, overlook things of the immediate present and turn a little attention to the future. Honolulu today is not the same city that selected the Mahuka site two years or more ago. In those days we had not kicked off the last vestige of the hula skirt; we were still measuring ourselves in pints. We went so far—don't laugh now—that we seriously argued the point that the Irwin site was "too far from the center of the town." Those who backed the Mahuka site had convinced themselves that they were right; perhaps they were, then, but the majority of them know very well now that they would be wrong today in taking the same stand.

The question is one of the best good of a city that has just commenced to grow. It is acknowledged by business men up and down Fort street that the location of the federal building on the whole block desired will hurt Fort street business. The business houses who helped pull the site selection to Mahuka and which are now threatened with eviction, will be hurt worst of all. They do not want to move or to sell their freeholds or leases at this time, realizing that they will become more valuable as time goes on and the city grows. The general public would rather see the Mahuka site covered with up-to-date business blocks, for which it is eminently suited, and see the federal building become what it should be, a part of the civic center, one of the group of public buildings that should be located about the Palace Square. The architects want the building where the best effect can be obtained, the territorial officials want it there. Practically everyone wants it on the Irwin site now, whatever they wanted previously, and it is only stubborn pride that keeps us from saying so.

At one time it was feared that to raise the question would delay the commencement of work upon the building, with a possibility of having the appropriation lost altogether. That fear prevails no longer, in view of the fact that the government has commenced what must be a period of long litigation to secure condemnation of the desired extension to the site. By effecting a transfer—provided, of course, the terms are as fair as were offered for a previous transfer—work on the building could be commenced earlier than present prospects promise.

Kuhio is here now. He comes fresh from consultations with the officials of the treasury department regarding the matter. He is interested keenly in the erection of the federal building that will stand in this city as a lasting monument to his successful career in the halls of the nation's lawmakers.

It appears to the Bystander that it would be good business, good sense and good civic patriotism for us to reopen this matter, discuss it in the light of the full knowledge we have, and, if it is then deemed wise, get back of Kuhio as one man and request him to take the matter up and settle it, once for all, when he returns to Washington for the special session next month.

## BONES OF FAMOUS EXPLORER FOUND

PARIS, March 4.—After years of searching, the remains of the famous African explorer, Alexander Gordon Laing (1793-1826), have been discovered on the Upper Niger by M. Bonnaud de Mezieres, who was entrusted with the mission by the government of French Senegal.

Laing, who was a Scotchman, was killed by natives between Timbuctoo and Aravan on September 26, 1826, while exploring the course of the Niger on a mission from the British government. Other explorers have sought in vain for Laing's burial place.

M. de Mezieres collected the tales of the natives and ascertained that the "Bair," as Laing was called, had been killed and buried in a place called Saebh, thirty-one miles north of Timbuctoo. M. de Mezieres described the

bones of the hapless explorer, which were buried beneath a tree about three feet deep.

Laing was the first European to visit Timbuctoo, which he reached by a journey across the Sahara from Tripoli. Evidence was collected after his death showing that the Tripoli government had plotted that he should be placed in the power of the assassin Burabusch, who was appointed as his guide and murdered him.

## PERSISTENT COLDS.

There is no reason why a cold should hang on for weeks, or until some chronic throat or lung trouble is developed, and it will not if you take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. By its remarkable cures of colds that remedy has from a small beginning acquired a world-wide sale and use. You may know that a remedy that has constantly grown in favor and popularity for almost forty years has more than ordinary merit. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaii.

Judge Atkins of Kohala celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday anniversary on March 8.

## SIDELIGHTS

The vice of gambling is a tolerably ancient one. I know not whether Samson was the first to fall, but as he was a gambler and lived some eleven or twelve hundred in the B. C.'s, the term "ancient" is not misapplied. Once he killed a lion with as much ease as an Illinois legislator does a reform bill. Out of the animal carcass came sweetness—even as it does from the legislative carcass. Samson was aspiring to the editorship of the puzzle columns of the "Weekly Philistine," and, for practice, shrouded his achievements in the form of a riddle. Then he betted thirty of the Philistines thirty sheets and thirty garments that any guess they might make in the seven days of the honeymoon feast he was giving would by no means place them on the roll of honor. They tried it for three days, but there was nothing doing. Being short on sheets and garments they put a job up on the strong man, and got his newly-made wife to wheedle the answer out of him and tell it to them. When the seventh day came the solution was reduced to blank verse and handed in. The proposer of the bet admitted losing, but in language which wasn't blank verse by any means told them how they had managed to win. But he was a good loser, and paid the bet promptly. As his laundryman had not come home yet, "he went down to Askebon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle."

The game B. C. man was by no means the last—indeed there is as yet no last. The Roman who wouldn't take a chance never got his name in the "Who's Who" of the mistress of the world. If you have doubts about the beliefs of the Greeks on the subject, talk with George and Demosthenes Lyceus. They will tell you all about it; and if you are skeptical, will be only too glad to demonstrate. The middle ages kept up the good work and passed the germ on down through successive centuries. It is not so long ago that courts in England, the inventors of that absolutely incomprehensible institution called the "common law," enforced wagers. Somewhere or other I read that an English bigwig with "Mansfield" for a last and "Lord" for a first name, instructed a jury in a case where the plaintiff claimed he had won a bet from the defendant by guessing the sex of a given individual.

Perhaps the Mayflower people didn't have any paraphernalia on board, but if there weren't some bound volumes of Luther's sermons changed hands when the day's run was figured out, then indeed must they have been a chosen lot. Later their descendants did gamble. They bet any woman who was charged with being a witch, and therefore subject to being stoned to death—that she couldn't swim. Selecting a pool of sufficient depth to settle the bet they put her in. If she lost, the incident was a closed one, and if she won, it soon became a closed one.

George Washington loved whist—and whist without some kind of a stake was in those days unknown. When Ben Franklin was clerk of the Pennsylvania legislature he invented some magic circles and squares which look like the philosopher could do other things than fly kites and make treaties. Andy Jackson could turn a jack in a seven-up game whenever the state of the score showed its advent to be necessary. Henry Clay played a splendid game of poker. And so on down through the list. It would be perhaps difficult to establish, but, yet do I believe that occasionally President Taft feels sure enough of his golf to risk a little side bet of a cigar.

All of which proves that it is not our fault that we gamble. It is the fault of our ancestors, and we are no more responsible for it than we are for vanity in men and loveliness in women.

Gamble we do, and so will our children after us. Whether we bet as to who shall pay the street car fares, or take a flyer in stocks, or sit in a game of poker or play bridge, the spirit which moved Samson—except as to methods of paying losses—is with us.

And sad to relate, the vice is not peculiarly a masculine one. We, too, live in glass houses. The white women play bridge and other pin-money devastating games. The Japs say their women can hold more pairs of the funny little picture cards which are used for speculative purposes than the men. And—just think of it—our Chinese dames have organized several domino clubs, and with tea and watermelon seeds for refreshments, woo the Goddess—not God—of Chance.

And all of this notwithstanding the tenth commandment that we covet not our neighbor's belongings. And all of this notwithstanding very severe present day laws on the subject. Should the latter be strictly enforced and not confined to craps and che-fa, Jim Quinn's long dreamed of belt road could easily be built, and Wallace Farrington's most laudable suggestion that much needed school houses and teachers be provided, could be carried out. Forfeited cash bail bonds—some of them dug up by the higher-ups—would do the business, even if it didn't stop gambling.

Of course we white people understand thoroughly the real significance to be attached, attachable, and already attached to the war department's draft on us for five or six of our bravest warriors. When the Mexicans hear of the great sacrifice made by us in so readily complying with the request and stoically parting with these great heroes and generals, they will at once agree to do whatever Uncle Sam wants them to do. Revolutionist and Federalist alike will remember Cortez and Scott and Taylor. Over their mesquite camp-fires the greasers will fearfully whisper wonderful tales of the marvelous feats which these coming strategists can perform. Truly was the visit of Secretary Dickson to our widely described shores profitable to him and the rest of the United States, for it gave him the priceless knowledge that military wonders were ours.

The Chinaman can not quite understand things. He gets the news through his own papers and does some figuring himself. He knows that the Mexicans are a bad lot of people, and need a spanking which they will remember. In just what part of California the offending boys live he is not sure, but as he knows that Mexico is on the mainland, and that California is another name for the mainland, he is sure the tamale consumers are likewise "native sons." When it comes to evolving theories as to the cause of the trouble he is as inventive as an editor—perhaps as plausible. Some of them think the opium law is at the bottom of the whole trouble. Others assert that the Aztecs are using marked cards too much. A third contingent, and quite a large one, too, claims that an exclusion law which puts the Mexican on a plane with the Chinaman has been passed at Washington—which is known to be the capital of California—and that soldiers have been called out to see that it is enforced.

But the draft made on Hawaii is beyond the comprehension of the Celestial. He inquires whether "Roosevelt" is dead. He wants to know what Taft is doing. He thinks that Secretary Nagel, of the department of commerce and labor, who is so soft in disposing of exclusion cases here, should get busy. And if anyone is really needed from Hawaii he stubbornly maintains that Collector Stackable, Inspector Ray Brown, Marshal Hendry and Chief McDuffie would make the most handsome and effective quartet afforded by a country abounding in handsome and effective officials.

The Japs don't care much about the reasons for the scare, for they know, newspapers to the contrary notwithstanding, that Nippon is not involved. If they think at all on the subject, their thoughts are of a cheerful, happy nature. If we do get into a scrap with them, they feel confident that, with the best of our men gone to watch Mexico, the guns at Diamond Head and Fort Ruger and Pearl Harbor, and the marines, and the soldiers at Shafter and Schofield would be helpless, and Hawaii would soon be a Ken of Japan.

The Koreans have no ideas on this subject—few on any. The Filipinos are not Orientals—to the credit of the latter be it said—so their views need not be sought for.

And if the boys do get away, and come back safely—which they will of course do—let us get ready to sing "When Johnny comes marching home, hurrah, hurrah," practising on it during their absence.

While the Chinaman kept back his taro, and the poi supply was disappearing as rapidly as a surplus in the county treasury shortly before an election, I wonder whether the shekels he expected to garner by his action was the sole cause of the corner. Did not a little bit of vindictiveness—a quality which we all possess in varying degrees, in spite of the knowledge that it is a bad thing to own—enter into his calculations? Has he figured out the eye for an eye, and tooth for a tooth proverb? Maybe the financial part of the scheme was alone considered, but I have my suspicions.

Some few years ago it was discovered in Washington that opium was injurious, and the pipe which had soothed Celestial dreams for many a century was rudely prohibited. To use it longer meant sliding up back alleys, and hiring lawyers, and occasionally registering at the Hotel Henry. The board of health discovered that poi was a deadly poison unless made by a method unknown to the Chinaman. Again were the beliefs and traditions of years ruthlessly swept aside by the merciless hand of progress. And while he boarded his taro, perhaps the almond-eyed miser thought that this legislative health stunt business worked more ways than one.

The remedy for the food famine is at hand if the board wants to use it. Let it borrow Stackable's cache of dope, and open a joint. So many puffs for so many pounds of taro. The Waterhouse people at Kalihii will have to build warehouses and work overtime. And the Chinaman will forget his grudge and the people will no longer go hungry.

## Small Talks

**JUDGE C. F. CLEMONS.**—It is just as pleasant on the bench of this court as it was before the bar.

**JOHN MARTIN.**—One of the best things that the legislature has done so far is their decision not to tinker with the present liquor law.

**GENERAL MACOMB.**—The testing of the Fort Kamehameha 12-inch guns was satisfactory in every way. They are ready now for actual service.

**GUY H. TUTTLE.**—The A. A. U. is going along nicely, thank you, and is making arrangements for its first meet. Also for the first recognized records of the islands.

**H. L. HOLSTEIN.**—To be congratulated and thanked on the morning of his arrival by the legislature is a testimonial, I am sure, the Delegate to congress will not forget.

**W. BUCHANAN.**—The bookings for the steamships during the summer months will be very large. On the Canadian-Australian line we are already getting heavy bookings.

**SENATOR FAIRCHILD.**—I passed that vote of thanks I got for preparing the report of the hold-over committee on to the Governor. That's where everything was prepared.

**SUPERVISOR MURRAY.**—We are putting in \$15,000 per month for road work to commence April 1. We will be able to do something with the roads with that amount in hand.

**SENATOR CHILLINGWORTH.**—I object to it being said that I "glared" around the senate chamber. I simply looked. I have cultivated that look until it answers the same purpose.

**SENATOR FAIRCHILD.**—I have been requested to introduce a law abolishing all work between meals. If they don't stop shooting it into the ways and means committee, I'm going to.

**FRANK K. ARCHER.**—This business of presiding over the house in the unregenerate shape of a committee of the whole is a thankless job. No wonder the Speaker balked; but just you wait.

**E. W. BRECKONS.**—We've got to quit our offices in three months. I haven't the slightest idea where we're going but you can depend on all batteries working over time on the federal building site now.

**E. K. BONINE.**—The moving picture machine at the leper settlement has been installed in a new building and new films are sent over there every week. The settlement people are on a regular moving picture circuit.

**SHERIFF JARRETT.**—It took twenty-five miles of physical geography to ascertain the nature of Hilda Sheldon's injuries. When we left Honolulu it was over the heart; when we reached Kaneohe it was down in the hand, and when we got to Kalia it was all over.

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWSE.**—It was on the site of the proposed Nuuanu park that Kamehameha and the King of Oahu came face to face in the famous battle of Nuuanu, and it was there that the victorious Kamehameha passing on to the pali, left his defeated rival dead.

**MANAGER BALLENTYNE.**—A San Antonio paper states that the street railroad gets some of its best men from the San Antonio garrison—the men who recuter civil life. We have tried discharged soldiers on our line, but only a few really become the class of carmen we want.

**SECRETARY H. P. WOOD.**—It looks now as though Honolulu would have the best show for the 1914 convention of the Railway Passenger Agents Association. Every railway man we have written to on the subject favors Honolulu, and a large number say they will take off their coats and work for us.

**HANAWAKI KRUGER.**—You fellows put me up as secretary of the Union Club. I don't know any such a club. I am secretary of the UNION CLUB, the club that made Cunha's alley famous. Please don't make that mistake again. We have nearly two hundred dollars for the Captain Sam fund now.

**J. H. DREW.**—The customs people will never have to look for opium on the Matson boats, except possibly in packages slipped through by shippers as in the present case. I'm pretty sure that Captain Matson would rip things up if he heard of any one connected with the service mixing up with the dope business.

**W. D. ADAMS.**—Colonel Stacey informs me that he will return here with his Canadian Indians this summer from Australia and will keep them here about three weeks and make an Indian village. I think this will be an interesting feature. They will have Indian games, running, leaping, bareback riding, dances and should make a hit.

**MANAGER HEERTSCHE.**—The ratskeller project of the Young Hotel will probably be put in operation in June or July. The plans call for a remodeling of the candy store quarters which will all be utilized for cafe purposes. I believe the ratskeller will fill a long felt want and it will serve to relieve pressure on accommodations in the cafe.

**S. SHEBA.**—I find that Christianity is spreading widely among the Japanese on the island of Hawaii, much to the betterment of conditions in the various Japanese communities. When a convert is made, that convert is enthusiastically sincere. He stops drinking, gambling and other things and reverses his whole ideals of life. He is actually "born again."

**B. VON DAMM.**—There is need of the waterworks system being remodeled in the business section before any more permanent pavements are laid. With the present system, should a fire break out and the water pipes burst owing to different sizes of pipes, there would be danger of a great conflagration. The board of fire underwriters would like to see the system remodeled.

**CONDUCTOR YOUNG.**—The new wage schedule of the Rapid Transit company for the motormen and conductors is something which we old men in the service can appreciate, but it will be more appreciated possibly, by the men lately joined, for they know that each year they will get an increase of pay. We owe much to Manager Balleentyne for the personal interest he displayed in getting the scale adopted by the directors.

## A Real Court That Displaces War

The world has long pondered the idea of an efficient means of determining international differences. Arbitration has been the most generally accepted method, not because it was the best but because it was considered the most practicable and because its advocates look upon its successes as stepping stones to a world court of justice which is now recognized as the ideal and ultimate method. The Second Hague Conference, in 1907, labored diligently to establish such an international court. Differences of opinion as to the method of selecting judges prevented the realization of the plan at the time, and the nations are still considering it.

Meanwhile, the first Central American Peace Conference, held at Washington, D. C., in 1907, in a sincere effort on the part of five contiguous States—Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica—to devise a workable method of avoiding international strife, actually created such a court for those nations and agreed to submit to it all controversies, of whatever origin or nature, which may arise among them, that are not capable of diplomatic settlement. Mr. Carnegie provided funds for a courthouse at Cartago, Costa Rica.

Organized in 1908, this Central American Court of Justice has had two cases submitted to it. In the first case, it sat in judgment upon nations—the first event of the kind in the history of the world. Honduras was plaintiff, accusing Salvador and Guatemala of protecting and fomenting a revolution against its government. According to the provisions of the convention establishing the court, it was able, three days after the complaint was filed, to issue an interlocutory decree fixing the status quo and restraining the revolutionary movement pending decision of the case. Five months after the case was begun, judgment was rendered, the complaint being dismissed for want of sufficient evidence to support the allegations of Honduras.

The second case was instituted in 1909 by an individual, Dr. Pedro A. F. Diaz, a citizen of Nicaragua, against the government of Guatemala, claiming damages for alleged arbitrary imprisonment by the Guatemalan authorities, business losses and permanent injuries to health. The court dismissed the case on the ground chiefly that Diaz should first have resorted to the local courts of Guatemala, and failing to obtain justice there, should have called upon his own government to support his claim.

These cases have demonstrated, first, the practicability of this calm, deliberate and orderly method of settling international difficulties, for the revolutionary movement quickly subsided, being held in check by the interlocutory decree until the court rendered its final decision which was acquiesced in and obeyed by all parties concerned; and, second, that an international court can be so constituted that individuals as well as nations may resort to it.

The results seem to justify further tests of this method of adjusting international differences, and the prediction that, if backed by a strong public sentiment, all nations will come to recognize courts of justice as the best agencies for the settlement of disputes.